

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 1 (Previously Amended). An automated method for setting up a natural
2 language interface in a Web site comprising the steps of:
3 defining a hierarchy of topics into which individual documents or
4 Web pages can be classified;
5 generating a keyword index for those documents; and
6 for each topic in the hierarchy, associating a set of n-grams to a
7 topic in the topic hierarchy, which set of n-grams is distinctive to that topic
8 and wherein the n-grams maybe sparse or non-sparse n-grams.

1 2 (Previously Amended). The automated method for setting up a natural
2 language interface in a Web site recited in claim 1, wherein the step of
3 generating a keyword index comprises the step of extracting sparse n-
4 grams of keywords for each group of pages in the topic hierarchy.

1 3 (Previously Amended). The automated method for setting up a natural
2 language interface in a Web site recited in claim 1, further comprising the
3 step of optionally reviewing and editing the keyword index.

1 4 (Previously Amended). An automated method for setting up a natural
2 language interface in a Web site comprising the steps of:
3 automatically inducing a topic hierarchy by examining a structure
4 of the Web site;
5 creating n-grams from pages in the Web site that are associated
6 with a topic in the topic hierarchy wherein the n-grams may be sparse in-
7 grams or non-sparse n-grams; and
8 creating rules from the n-grams, wherein each topic has associated

9 rules that are used to decide if a new input document or query references
10 the topic.

1 5 (Previously Amended). The automated method for setting up a natural
2 language interface in a Web site recited in claim 4, wherein the step of
3 creating rules is performed automatically and further comprising the
4 optional step of manually editing the rules.

1 6 (Previously Added). The automated method for setting up a natural
2 language interface in a Web site recited in claim 1, further comprising the
3 step of converting the set of n-grams to classification rules.